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*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

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December 10, 2019

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

# ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

12 December 10, 2019

CELIA ZAVALA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE SECOND YEAR OF THE 2019-20 SESSION (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)

#### SUBJECT

The following recommendations represent policies and proposals for the second year of the 2019-20 Legislative Session, which were developed in coordination with Board offices, County departments, and County Counsel. This package, together with other positions previously adopted by the Board, represent guiding principles for the County's advocacy efforts in Sacramento.

#### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Approve the attached additions, deletions, and changes to existing Board-adopted policies and positions for inclusion in the 2019-20 State Legislative Agenda (Attachment).
2. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer and affected departments to work with the County's Legislative delegation, other counties and local governments, and stakeholders to pursue these policies, positions, and priorities in the State Legislature and with the Administration and its agencies.
3. Direct the Chief Executive Office and the County's Sacramento Legislative Representatives to advocate on the Board's behalf and to prepare and transmit the County's legislative priorities in letters to the Legislature and the Governor.

## **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The recommended changes seek to minimize the adverse impact of State actions on the County, achieve greater flexibility over the use of State funds, protect revenue sources for County-provided services, secure State financial assistance whenever possible, and promote the growth of the State and local economy.

## **CALIFORNIA FISCAL OUTLOOK**

On June 27, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the \$214.8 billion Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 State Budget Act, which provides \$147.8 billion in State General Fund (SGF) expenditures and includes \$19.2 billion in total reserves of which \$16.5 billion is in the Rainy-Day Fund. The Budget also includes \$1.4 billion for the Special Fund Economic Uncertainties, \$900.0 million for the Safety New Reserve, and \$400.0 million for the Public School System Stabilization Account.

Of note, the Budget makes investments to accelerate the production of new housing and combat homelessness, reduces health care costs and increases access for families, expands the California Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for working families, builds resiliency and increases response and recovery funding for emergencies, provides ongoing funding for a new safe and affordable drinking water (SADW) program, and prioritizes public safety by focusing on rehabilitation and successful reentry. The Budget also expands State-subsidized child care and preschool facilities and increases child care slots, and provides funding for home-visiting services and black infant health programs, infectious disease prevention and control efforts, census outreach and education activities, and to reimburse counties for voting system upgrade and replacement costs.

The final budget package included notable investments for County priorities and provides robust funding for many County programs and operations, including:

- \$650.0 million for one-time grants to local governments (including \$175.0 million for counties) to fund a variety of programs and services that address homelessness, and \$500.0 million to expand the State's low-income housing tax credit program;
- \$429.0 million in SGF for new State subsidies to reduce the cost of health care coverage and \$74.0 million in SGF for FY 2019-20 to expand comprehensive Medi-Cal coverage to all income-eligible adults ages 19 through 25 regardless of immigration status;
- \$1.0 billion to expand the EITC and provide low-income, working families with young children with an additional \$1,000.00 annually;
- \$700.0 million in SGF for a wide range of disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts and includes funding to help recover from the Woolsey Fire;
- \$130.0 million to establish a new SADW;
- \$71.0 million in SGF to implement an integrated substance use disorder treatment program within State prisons and \$50.0 million in ongoing SGF to support various rehabilitation and reentry programs;
- \$263.0 million for grants to child care and preschool providers for facilities expansions, \$195.0 million for grants for child care and preschool workforce professional development and education, and \$143.3 million ongoing to increase access to the Alternative Payment Program and General Child Care Program;
- \$34.8 million in ongoing reimbursements and \$30.5 million ongoing SGF to expand the California Home Visiting Program and the Black Infant Health Program;
- \$40.0 million for infectious disease prevention and control efforts, including \$36.0 million for grants to local health departments; and

- \$30.0 million in SGF for additional 2020 Census outreach and education activities, and \$87.3 million in one-time SGF for reimbursement to counties for voting systems upgrade and replacement costs.

On November 20, 2019, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released its fiscal assessment for California, which projects that the State's budget will have sufficient resources to pay for its existing commitments in FY 2020-21. Assuming no new budget commitments (i.e., spending increases or tax reductions) are made, the LAO estimates that the State's constitutional reserve would reach \$18.3 billion by the end of FY 2020-21. In addition, the LAO projects that the State will have a \$7.0 billion surplus available to allocate in the FY 2020-21 State budget process. The LAO notes that the \$7.0 billion surplus projected for FY 2020-21 is smaller than the \$10.0 billion surplus that was projected in FY 2018-19 and the \$22.0 billion projected for FY 2019-20.

Given that most key economic indicators project a slower growth rate for both the U.S. and California economies in the coming years, the LAO recommends that the Legislature be cautious in allocating the estimated \$7.0 billion surplus by dedicating no more than \$1.0 billion of the \$7.0 billion projected surplus to ongoing purposes in FY 2020-21. The LAO also recommends that the Legislature allocate a significant portion of the surplus toward building reserves, paying down debt, and funding flexible commitments that can be changed mid-year if economic conditions change.

## COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

As described below, unless otherwise directed by the Board, the County's initial advocacy efforts in 2020 will be primarily concentrated on expanding access to homeless services and affordable housing, health care, child welfare and early childhood development, justice reform, infrastructure investment, promoting business development and employment, and environmental protection and sustainability.

**Homeless Services and Affordable Housing.** The County's Homeless Initiative has engaged an array of public and private stakeholders in a multifaceted, Countywide action plan to combat and prevent homelessness. This initiative has helped provide thousands of families and individuals with temporary and permanent housing, case management services, and supportive services. However, homelessness continues to be a major crisis requiring a sustained and focused effort to move those who are homeless into stable housing and to identify effective strategies to reduce the flow of individuals and families into homelessness.

The County will advocate for State assistance and proposals that advance the County's efforts to combat homelessness, including proposals to: 1) fund initiatives to reduce and prevent homelessness; 2) expand the availability of interim and permanent supportive housing; and 3) allow counties to maximize Federal, State, and local funds to provide services for at-risk and homeless individuals and families.

In addition, the County places a high priority on increasing the availability of affordable housing. To that end, the County has invested \$726.0 million dollars, and leveraged \$3.3 billion in public and private funds, towards the construction of approximately 8,173 affordable units over the last five years. The Los Angeles County Development Authority has also helped 23,000 low-income households through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and 2,700 veterans through Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers.

The County will continue to support and advocate for proposals that: 1) provide funding to construct new affordable housing units; 2) preserve and rehabilitate existing affordable housing units;

3) provide rental assistance and legal assistance for individuals and families at-risk of housing instability or homelessness; 4) provide down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers; and 5) fund initiatives to ensure housing stability of youth, including those currently and formerly in foster care.

Health Care. There are a number of legislative issues that are important to the health care safety-net in the County. First, California has two Federal Medicaid Waivers — Sections 1115 and 1915(b) — that will expire at the end of 2020, and the State is in the process of developing its proposals, the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM), to renew these Waivers and implement other Medicaid funding mechanisms. These Medicaid Waivers have been critical to the financing and delivery of health, mental health, and substance use disorder care, and future Waivers must continue to meet the needs of the County's safety-net system of care and the residents it supports. Second, as a result of limited system capacity to meet the growing need of individuals with serious mental illness, there will be a focus on access to critical services at all levels of care, including inpatient, outpatient, and adult residential facilities, among others. Additionally, the overall health and well-being of a community is critically important to preventing physical and mental health conditions and reducing health inequities. Finally, the Federal government continues to take actions that threaten access to health care services for immigrant families and children, including its recent actions to change the guidelines in making public charge determinations.

The County will continue to support and advocate for proposals and funding that ensure the County's residents have access to essential health care, mental health care, and population health services. This includes those that: 1) protect and expand Medicaid funding, eligibility, and covered services, including through CalAIM and the Sections 1115 and 1915(b) Waivers, and related funding mechanisms, for the most vulnerable residents; 2) ensure that individuals with serious mental illness have access to critical services in the most appropriate setting; 3) support community health, disease prevention, and wellness efforts to address the root causes of physical and mental health conditions; and 4) educate and promote access to available health care services for immigrant families and children, such as Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Child Welfare and Early Childhood Development. The County continues to collaborate and partner with stakeholders to increase resources to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families involved in the child welfare system, support programs and services that strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect and promote investments in early childhood development and learning. Additionally, recent State budget and legislative efforts to reform the child welfare system and expand the early care and education system have been achieved to promote healthy childhood development and improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families. However, despite these ongoing efforts, the need for increased resources and supports accessible to all children, youth, and families remains.

The County will continue to advocate for proposals that support vulnerable youth, strengthen families, and promote healthy childhood development by ensuring access to services and supports that include, among others: 1) services and funding, including for housing, that promote self-sufficiency among transition-age foster youth, nonminor dependents, and former foster youth; 2) enhanced child welfare and permanency services; 3) evidence-based child abuse and neglect prevention services; and 4) high-quality early care and education programs. In addition, the County will continue to advocate for State and Federal assistance and proposals that advance the County's efforts to transition from the Title IV-E child welfare waiver and successfully implement the Family First Prevention Services Act without disrupting vital services provided to vulnerable children and families.

**Justice Reform.** The County's progress in reforming its justice programs has reached a critical stage, and its success will have momentous impact both locally and statewide. Reforming the larger adult and juvenile justice systems will require a truly robust multi-disciplinary and intersectoral effort, including a continued and expanded partnership with the State. As such, the County will advocate for proposals that continue advancing statewide and local efforts to transform the adult and juvenile justice systems, including proposals that would support the County's goals to: 1) divert adults and juveniles from incarceration and into rehabilitative, health-focused and care-first systems; 2) mitigate racial and economic disparities in the justice system; and 3) implement bail system reforms consistent with the County's care-first agenda, with adequate local control, time, flexibility and funding, including adequate funding for services, and which reduce unnecessary detention while maintaining public safety.

**Infrastructure Investment.** The County has approximately \$1.0 billion in shovel-ready projects for transportation, water, parks, and beaches. The County is using existing local and state voter-approved revenue measures to invest in local streets, roads, and bridges, which are vital to the region's economy, public safety, and our residents' quality of life. In 2018, County voters also approved a ballot measure to fund stormwater projects and programs that will modernize our 100-year old water system, protect public health and the environment, and maximize a cleaner, locally controlled water system. However, investment and legislative actions from our State partners would greatly assist the County meet its larger infrastructure goals.

The County will advocate for proposals that support county and state responsibility for improving and maintaining vital public infrastructure, including proposals that: 1) provide new and ongoing sources of funding to enhance mobility and safety; 2) provide funding to upgrade water infrastructure; 3) fund the development of public infrastructure, transportation systems and programs that address population growth, the regional economy, and public health; 4) provide funding to invest in recycling and organic waste infrastructure; and 5) assist local governments' disaster prevention/mitigation efforts.

**Economic Development and Workforce Development.** To stimulate job growth in the region and help lift County residents out of poverty, the County is strategically investing in supporting small businesses and innovative workforce development programs in high growth sector industries that create a pipeline to well-paying jobs for the community. The County's economic development and workforce development programs seek to incentivize the growth of small business, build a more inclusive workforce, and provide targeted assistance to individuals facing the greatest barriers to economic success.

The County will advocate for proposals that promote economic development, stimulate job growth in the region, and help lift economically disadvantaged residents experiencing barriers to employment out of poverty and into self-sufficiency. This includes proposals that would: 1) support the technology, healthcare, trade, manufacturing, construction, leisure and hospitality, bioscience, clean energy and creative economies; 2) stimulate regional investment and encourage private sector participation; 3) support and incentivize the growth and development of small businesses and social enterprises; and 4) promote economic self-sufficiency by supporting comprehensive employment and training programs that provide wrap-around supportive services, remove barriers to employment, provide continued education, effect job placement, encourage businesses to hire unemployed or underemployed workers, and improve the retention of workers.

**Environmental Protection and Sustainability.** Environmental hazards and the impacts of climate change continue to impact urban disadvantaged communities most directly. Over the last several years, issues such as lead contamination, hazardous substance incidents, hazardous air quality, and

deteriorating water supply infrastructure have required the County to step in to ensure the State is enforcing regulations and providing timely enforcement against responsible parties. In the case of the Satis Water District, the County worked with the local agency formation commission to pressure the State to dissolve the water district and install the County as its interim administrator. Therefore, the County will advocate for proposals which bolster local authority to enforce corrective actions of businesses emitting hazardous substances, increase the State's regulation of hazardous materials and waste, improve the State's enforcement of environmental laws, and provide funding for remediation or administration of service provision.

In August 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved the OurCounty Plan, a regional sustainability plan for the region. The Plan recognizes the urgency and impacts of the climate crisis and proposes ambitious and innovative strategies to make the County an equitable, prosperous and resilient region. To support those efforts, the County will also support sustainability proposals that: 1) enhance the well-being of every community while reducing the damage to the natural environment; 2) assist communities in adapting to climate change; and 3) prioritize complimentary goals of job creation, improved public health, technology innovation, and regional policy collaboration.

## **RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE COUNTY'S STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

The recommended changes in the attachment represent requests from this office, County departments, and Board offices to add or modify policy statements consistent with existing operational goals and plans. New policy statements represent emerging programs and issues for which we are seeking the Board's concurrence to guide future advocacy efforts in Sacramento. In addition, some policies are no longer applicable and, therefore, have been removed.

All other State Legislative Agenda policies and positions previously adopted by the Board remain in effect and, as such, advocacy will continue on these matters. A revised comprehensive list of all State Legislative Agenda policy statements will be published subsequent to consideration and approval of the changes included in this letter.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The proposed policies in the State Legislative Agenda are consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness and Fiscal Sustainability. Operational Effectiveness is achieved by providing timely advocacy on proposals that could significantly impact the County and support the delivery of efficient public services. Fiscal Sustainability results from efforts by the Chief Executive Office and County departments to sustain essential services through proactive and prudent fiscal policies.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

None.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

None.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

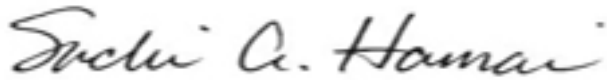
None.

**CONCLUSION**

The recommended additions, deletions, and changes to existing adopted policies are submitted for the Board's consideration as guiding principles for inclusion in the State Legislative Agenda for the second year of the 2019-20 Legislative Session. This office will ensure that all legislative positions pursued are communicated to the Board, and that Board offices are provided the opportunity for input on those positions prior to any initial advocacy.

The policies and proposals contained in this package are in addition to, and are not intended to replace or be exclusive of any position the Board may adopt at any time during the year. As in the past, the State Legislative Agenda will be updated to reflect subsequent Board actions and will be shared with all County departments subsequent to Board approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sachin A. Hamai". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SACHI A. HAMAI

Chief Executive Officer

SAH:FAD:SA

OR:AO:IGEA:sy

Enclosures

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel



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## RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE 2019-20 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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**RECOMMENDED STATE LEGISLATIVE POLICIES ADDRESSING ISSUES OF  
MAJOR COUNTY INTEREST**

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## **GENERAL STATE LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES**

7. Oppose any abridgement or elimination of the Board of Supervisors' powers and duties ~~unless the change promotes a higher priority of the board.~~

**Justification:** The proposed revision would strengthen the policy. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations)**

12. Oppose proposals that would impose new unfunded mandates, including those that do not ~~allow the Board of Supervisors authority to vary the implementation guidelines~~ provide local flexibility.

**Justification:** The proposed revision would streamline existing policy. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations)**

14. Oppose proposals that would reduce local flexibility in the administration of the County workforce.

**Justification:** With the ever-changing political landscape, uncertainty in Washington, D.C., and the risk of the economy slowing down in the near future; local flexibility over the County workforce is critical to the ability of the County to provide services to constituents. For example, during the 2017-2018 Legislative Session, County-opposed SB 1163 (Galgiani) would have required only Board-eligible forensic pathologists to conduct autopsies on unidentified individuals. If SB 1163 had been enacted, the proposed staffing restrictions would have placed the accreditation of the Medical Examiner-Coroner at risk because of the increased workload shift to a limited set of County employees. Local flexibility to manage internal operations is essential to local governments' ability to provide essential programming and services in a manner that meets local needs. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations)**

## **1. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

### **1.1 Child Welfare Services**

- ~~2. Support legislation to maintain the full Child Welfare Services allocation independent of actual caseload for up to five years to cover the increased costs of implementing new programs to improve outcomes for children by allowing them to remain safely at home, shorten their length of stay in care and reduce re-abuse.~~

- ~~3. Support proposals to ensure full funding for the Child Welfare Services Program, including increased funding to cover all mandated services, pursuant to the SB-2030 (Chapter 785, Statutes of 1998) Workload Study and the fully loaded costs of a social worker.~~

2. Support proposals that ensure full funding for the Child Welfare Services Program, independent of actual caseload for up to five years, which includes the fully loaded costs of a social worker, costs associated with the implementation of mandated services and programs that improve outcomes for children, and costs needed to achieve outcome improvements as identified by mandated State and Federal program assessments, among others.

**Justification:** Consolidation of policies (1.1.2, 1.1.3, and 1.1.14) which support funding for the Child Welfare Services Program to cover the full cost of doing business, including but not limited to costs associated with mandated services, fully loaded social workers, and State and Federal outcome improvement plans/assessments. **(Recommended by the Department of Children and Family Services)**

~~10. Support legislation to streamline Dependency Court procedures while ensuring the safety and best interests of children.~~

~~11. Support proposals that simplify Welfare and Institutions Code Statutes regarding notice of dependency hearings.~~

9. Support proposals that streamline Dependency Court procedures, including the simplification of notice requirements for dependency hearings, while ensuring the safety and best interest of children.

**Justification:** Revision to consolidate policies (1.1.10 and 1.1.11) related to streamlining Dependency Court procedures. **(Recommended by the Department of Children and Family Services)**

12. Support proposals that promote cross-agency communication and collaboration between child welfare and local educational agencies, parks and recreation departments, public libraries, and law enforcement agencies to enhance the County's ability to establish partnerships that ensure the safety and well-being of children at risk of abuse and neglect and development programs that improve the quality of life for children.

**Justification:** The LA County Library works collaboratively with County Departments on child welfare programs and services. This revision would allow the County to support proposals that include the LA County Library. **(Recommended by the LA County Library, concurred by the Department of Children and Family Services)**

~~14. Support proposals to fund Child Welfare Services outcome improvements included in the County's Self-Improvement Plan, including Point of Engagement, the State's AB 636 (Chapter 678, Statutes of 2001) Outcomes and Accountability System and the Federal Children and Family Services Review.~~

**Justification:** Consolidation of policies (1.1.2, 1.1.3, and 1.1.14) that support funding for the Child Welfare Services program to cover the full cost of doing business, including but not limited to costs associated with mandated services, fully loaded social workers, and State and Federal outcome improvement plans/assessments. **(Recommended by the Department of Children and Family Services)**

## **1.2 Child Welfare Services – Foster Care**

- 8 Support proposals which allow the sharing of information concerning [resource](#) family homes approved by foster family agencies to prevent the licensure, approval, and/or approval of previously de-certified homes.
- 10 Support proposals to enhance permanency for children by streamlining and consolidating the separate studies and criminal clearances that must be administered to a ~~caregiver~~ [resource family](#) for licensure, approval, and adoption.

**Justification:** Revision of policies (1.2.8 and 1.2.10) to be consistent with existing law and terminology under Continuum of Care Reform. **(Recommended by the Department of Children and Family Services)**

[24. Support proposals that reduce the over-utilization of psychotropic medication, which includes funding for activities to monitor the administration of psychotropic medication prescribed to foster children and youth.](#)

~~24. Support proposals to fund county activities related to monitoring the administration of psychotropic medication prescribed to children in foster care.~~

~~26. Support proposals which address the utilization of psychotropic medication on vulnerable youth.~~

**Justification:** Revisions to consolidate policies (1.2.24 and 1.2.26) related to the prescription, and monitoring, of psychotropic drugs to foster youth. **(Recommended by the Department of Children and Family Services)**

## **2 ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION**

### **2.1 Air Quality**

[17. Support proposals which would enact a partial sales and use tax exemption for zero-emission transit buses sold to local public agencies eligible for the California Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Program.](#)

**Justification:** Motion (Hahn) approved by the Board on September 17, 2019.

### **2.2 Beaches**

[12. Support proposals to transfer of fee title ownership of county-operated state beaches to Los Angeles County.](#)

**Justification:** The County has operated Will Rogers and Dockweiler State beaches since 1975, pursuant to a joint operating agreement with the City of Los Angeles (which took jurisdiction over these beaches in 1949). The County is responsible for funding all maintenance, operations, and lifeguarding at these beaches, and also bears all liability. Securing ownership of Will Rogers and

Dockweiler State beaches would release the County from having to secure the State Department of Parks and Recreation approval for County activities at these beaches. **(Requested by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations; concurred by the Department of Beaches and Harbors)**

## **2.4 Parks**

1. Support proposals ~~to fund~~ for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks, ~~and~~ recreation facilities, ~~and~~ open space, and trails, and ~~seek that facilitate additional funding for~~ the establishment of new urban parks in the underserved areas of the County.

**Justification:** The Department of Parks and Recreation recommends changes to this existing policy to allow the County to support proposals to fund and/or otherwise facilitate a wide variety of parks-related projects and amenities. **(Recommended by the Department of Parks and Recreation)**

10. Oppose ~~legislation~~ proposals that would increase exposure to, or reduce immunities from, governmental liability related to the ownership, construction, operation, or maintenance of parks, trails, or recreational facilities.

**Justification:** The Department of Parks and Recreation recommends revising this existing policy to cover a broad range of elements that would be owned, constructed, operated or maintained by parks departments. **(Recommended by the Department of Parks and Recreation)**

16. Support proposals that would provide funding and resources for development, operations, maintenance, programming and enforcement for enhanced recreation and public access to the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, and Rio Hondo Rivers and their tributaries.

**Justification:** The Department of Parks and Recreation indicates that this proposed new policy would allow the County to support legislation to fund recreation and public access to the Los Angeles River, San Gabriel River, Rio Hondo River and their tributaries. It is recognized that increasingly urbanized development of the region has reduced the amount of available recreational space and open space for residents. **(Recommended by the Department of Parks and Recreation; concurred by the Department of Public Works).**

## **2.6 Water Supply**

21. Support ~~legislation~~ proposals that effectuates fiscal and operational management and control over failing water systems by appointing an interim administrator, providing immunity from liability for parties involved in the consolidation or dissolution of a failing water system, providing adequate financial resources for the interim administrator, reimbursing local governments for costs associated with serving as the interim administrator and/or successor agency of water districts, and ensuring that the local agency formation commission has a role in selecting the new, long-term water service provider.

**Justification:** The proposed revision to this policy reflect a motion (Ridley-Thomas and Hahn) approved by the Board on May 14, 2019.

22. Support proposals which would require the State Water Board to adopt an annual assessment of failed water systems throughout the State that prioritizes systems for financial assistance due to the severity of the public health threat, the extent to which the community served by the public water system is a disadvantaged community, the number of people served by the water system, and technical, managerial and financial capacity of the entity that operates the water system.

**Justification:** Motion (Ridley-Thomas and Hahn) approved by the Board on May 14, 2019.

### **3. GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

#### **3.1 Retirement, Compensation and Benefits, and Workers' Compensation**

16. Oppose proposals that eliminate governmental retirement plan features such as special catch-up contribution provisions, qualifying charitable distributions, non-spouse beneficiary IRA fund rollovers, and auto enrollment.

**Justification:** The County's Deferred Compensation program was designed to permit eligible employees to defer a portion of their compensation to supplement retirement income needs. Removal of unique plan designs would limit the amount of savings an employee could defer annually in order to sustain themselves and their loved ones during their retirement years. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Benefits)**

#### **3.4 Consumer Protection and Fair Business Practices**

21. Support proposals that would extend or remove the sunset date of, or otherwise enhance, the County's Enhanced Homeowner Notification Program (~~SB 827 of 2014~~ SB 1106 of 2019).

**Justification:** Update existing policy to reflect the enactment of County-sponsored SB 1106 (Chapter 165, Statutes of 2019), which extended the enhanced authority granted to the County to administer the Enhanced Homeowner Notification Program until January 1, 2030. **(Recommended by the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs; concurred by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk).**

27. Support legislation which would create a comprehensive statewide tax agent registration system and/or ensure transparency of price disclosures.

**Justification:** The Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) recommends expanding this policy to allow the County to support proposals that would require written notice of all costs and fees prior to starting tax preparation services. DCBA reports that it receives consumer complaints about receiving tax refunds for lesser amounts than what individuals had been told by tax preparers would be received. According to DCBA, the transparency of price disclosures would allow consumers to make more informed decisions and expand consumer protections. **(Recommended by the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs)**

35. Support proposals to provide additional funding for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program providers to expand access to free income tax preparation services for low-moderate income taxpayers.

**Justification.** For decades, the Internal Revenue Services' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program has provided free tax preparation services through the use of certified volunteers to millions of low-moderate income tax payers, including the elderly, people with disabilities and, people with limited English proficiency. DCBA reports that the program has a 93 percent accuracy rate, which is higher than paid taxpayers. VITA helps qualifying tax payers save hundreds of dollars on expensive tax preparation services and is an important gateway to other asset building services.

The program is an integral component of successful Earned Income Tax Credit outreach and utilization. The service is most often provided by community-based organizations who at times, struggle with the recruitment and retention of certified volunteers. The addition of this policy would allow the County to advocate for increased funding for the VITA program to serve low-income taxpayers. **(Recommended by the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs)**

### **3.8 Historic Preservation**

~~1. Support legislation for the funding and development of the El Pueblo Cultural and Performing Arts Center on the County-owned properties known as the Antique Block.~~

**Justification:** The El Pueblo de Los Angeles Antique Block, bounded by North Main Street, Spring Street, Cesar E. Chavez Avenue and Arcadia Street, has been developed into the LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes (which opened in 2011). This policy, adopted in 2001, is no longer needed. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office - Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations)**

2. Support proposals to fund the protection, preservation, restoration, and enhancement of historical areas, civic artworks, or monuments under County ownership or control and ~~for~~ State-owned sites or artworks within the County, including sites or artworks that are being managed on behalf of the County.

**Justification:** The Department of Arts and Culture reports that the County has stewardship responsibility for the artworks in its collection. The addition of this policy would allow the County to support legislation that provides needed resources for the County to maintain County-owned or controlled artwork and monuments. **(Recommended by the Department of Arts and Culture; concurred by the Museum of Art and Museum of Natural History)**

### **3.9 Human Relations**

4. Support legislation that would strengthen law enforcement training, reporting, and prosecution of hate crimes.

**Justification:** Motion (Solis & Hahn) approved by the Board on October 1, 2019.

### **3.10 Library Services**

9. Support proposals to fund public safety enhancements and/or social service interventions at libraries including but not limited to, public safety staffing and technology (i.e. video cameras, weapon screening, etc.).

**Justification:** The LA County Library strives to provide excellent services and a safe space to all members of the public. However, there has been a rise in incidents related to patrons who are disruptive and engage in unruly behavior which poses safety concerns for staff, children and families. There is a need for more resources in the County's libraries to address public safety needs and the needs of patrons who may need support from other County Departments or social service agencies, such as mental health or substance use issues. The addition of this policy would allow the County to advocate for increased resources to enhance public safety and/or social service outreach at public libraries. **(Recommended by the LA County Library; concurred by the Homeless Initiative)**

10. Support proposals to provide or increase funding for public libraries to provide outreach, programming, and services to patrons.

**Justification:** The LA County Library has the ability to reach 3.4 million residents and provide programming throughout the county through its 85 library locations and partner with County departments to target their respective populations and specific programs. The Library currently partners with Metro, Registrar-Recorder, Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services, Probation, Mental Health, Office of Child Protection and Public Health with programming opportunities that provide preventative services to their target population. **(Recommended by the LA County Library)**

### **3.11 Museums ~~and Performing~~, Arts, and Culture**

**Justification: Revised Title.** Recommendation to update the title of this section to reflect the establishment of the County's Department of Arts and Culture. **(Requested by the Department of Arts and Culture; concurred by the Museum of Art and the Museum of Natural History)**

- ~~1. Support measures which provide increased State funding for the arts and museums, including construction/renovation of regional cultural facilities.~~

1. Support proposals that maintain or provide increased funding for museums, arts, and cultural activities, including but not limited to performing arts, visual arts, literary arts and other artistic disciplines.

2. Support proposals that provide funding for acquisition, development, rehabilitation, construction, preservation, and restoration of cultural facilities of all types, including but not limited to museums, performing arts centers, cultural centers, artist studios, and facilities for cultural production.

**Justification:** The Department of Arts and Culture recommends separating construction from arts, museums and cultural activities and to expand the policy to include other cultural activities to allow the County to support proposals related to performing arts, visual arts, literary arts and other artistic disciplines. **(Recommended by the Department of Arts and Culture; concurred by the Museum of Art and the Museum of Natural History)**

4. Support proposals that further diversity, equity, inclusion, and access in the fields of arts and culture and increasing cultural activities and funding for small and community-based nonprofit organizations based in underserved areas.

**Justification:** According to the Department of Arts and Culture, in 2017 the Board passed \$1.0 million in new funding to support the Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative (CEII). The CEII report was the first and boldest of its kind. This new policy would allow the County to support proposals which seek to further promote diversity in the arts and funding for nonprofit organizations serving underserved communities. **(Recommended by the Department of Arts and Culture)**

5. Support proposals that provide State funding to support the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County expansion project.

**Justification:** New policy. Motion (Ridley-Thomas) approved by the Board on May 28, 2019.

### **3.12 Education**

9. Support proposals that would establish State funded schools to provide Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) instruction to underrepresented students.

**Justification:** Recommendation to update this policy to expand STEM to STEAM to include arts as a priority subject for additional efforts, which is consistent with current practices. **(Recommended by the Department of Arts and Culture; concurred by the Los Angeles County Office of Education)**

### **3.13 Public Records**

7. Support proposals to ensure that cities with their own health departments are able to process vital records.

**Justification:** New policy. Motion (Hahn and Barger) approved by the Board on May 28, 2019.

### **3.14 Redevelopment**

- 1 Support legislation which ~~continues or extends~~ enforces the redevelopment law reforms accomplished in the Community Redevelopment Reform Act (AB 1290, Chapter 942, Statutes of 1993), and oppose any redevelopment legislation which would cause the County to lose revenues or which would limit, circumvent, or repeal the provisions of AB 1290.

**Justification:** The revisions to this policy are being recommended to include the intent of policy 3.14.5, which is being deleted. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations)**

- ~~2. Support measures to strengthen the blight findings requirement to prevent redevelopment and economic development abuse.~~

**Justification:** The intent of this policy is covered by item number 4) of proposed new policy 3.14.10 below, and therefore no longer needed. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations)**

- ~~5. Support measures to close loopholes that allow agencies to extend the life of projects beyond the statutory time frames established in the Community Redevelopment Reform Act.~~

**Justification:** The intent of this policy is covered by the revisions to policy 3.14.1 above. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations)**

- ~~6. Support legislation that will provide State funding for rehabilitation of main street business districts.~~

**Justification:** California's Main Street Program, which focuses on the economic, social, cultural, and environmental well-being of traditional and historic commercial districts, was moved to the California Office of Historic Preservation (SB 1107, Chapter 230, Statutes of 2004). Therefore, this policy is no longer needed in the Redevelopment section of the State Legislative Agenda. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations)**

7. Support proposals that re-establish redevelopment-type programs that: 1) promote the development of low-and moderate-income housing with a minimum 30 percent set-aside and reasonable timeframes for expending these funds; 2) mandate that local governments' fiscal participation be at the discretion of the legislative body of each local government; 3) include mechanisms to allow local governments to fully recover their administrative costs; 4) require areas be deemed eligible for redevelopment projects when there is documented evidence of urban blight, local economic distress and/or inclusion of transit-oriented districts, excess State properties or priority projects; and 5) require the adoption of a local financing plan to evaluate the overall fiscal feasibility and impact of redevelopment project objectives.

**Justification:** Motion (Ridley-Thomas and Solis) approved by the Board on March 19, 2019.

### **3.17 Liability Protection and Mitigation**

7. Oppose proposals that expand administrative and civil penalties on local government entities.

**Justification:** New policy. Motion (Ridley-Thomas and Kuehl) approved by the Board on April 23, 2019.

### **3.19 Small Business Development**

1. Support proposals that would increase economic opportunities for small businesses, including access to capital and microlending opportunities.

**Justification:** The expansion of this policy would strengthen the County's ability to advocate for increased funding opportunities for small businesses. **(Recommended by the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs)**

2. Support proposals that provide funding for business development assistance, including to educate business owners educational opportunities on their rights and responsibilities to ~~facilitate their compliance~~ comply with applicable laws and regulations.

**Justification:** The Department of Consumer and Business Affairs's Office of Small Business provides assistance to entrepreneurs and start-ups to launch successful businesses, as well as established businesses interested in pursuing county contracting and subcontracting opportunities. The revision of this policy would expand the types of proposals the County can support to advocate for increased funding opportunities for small businesses. **(Recommended by the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs; concurred by the Department of Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services)**

## **4. HEALTH**

### **4.1 Financing of the Safety Net**

1. Support proposals to assist hospitals to meet ~~the SB 1953 (Chapter 740, Statutes of 1994)~~ seismic safety requirements.

**Justification:** State seismic safety requirements have changed through subsequent legislation and removing this language would allow this policy to be consistent with current standards. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations; concurred by the Department of Health Services)**

### **4.6 Public Health**

1. Support measures that provide funding to strengthen the ability of the public health or health services systems, including environmental health monitoring and oversight, to detect, prevent, and respond to natural, as well as man-made disasters, including acts of terrorism and climate disasters.

**Justification:** Adding environmental health monitoring and oversight would clarify that the policy statement would cover environmental health monitoring and response work that happens outside of declared disasters. In addition, climate change is already increasing the frequency and intensity of natural disasters throughout Los Angeles County, including wildfires, droughts, floods, and poor air quality events, and the trend is expected to worsen. The Department of Public Health's (DPH) Five Point Plan to Address the Health Impacts of Climate Change, adopted in 2014, includes a strategy to build the capacity of Departmental staff and programs to monitor health impacts, integrate climate preparedness, and improve climate response. Currently, funding specifically for the public health and health services systems to monitor and prepare for

climate-related disasters is minimal, and adding this language more explicitly reflects this increasing need. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Health)**

2. Support proposals that protect the public's health and/or that preserve or increase funding for public health/[environmental health](#) activities including: chronic disease prevention (such as asthma, heart disease, cancer, obesity, and diabetes), acute and chronic communicable disease control, immunizations, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted disease control, veterinary public health and rabies control, public health laboratory, maternal and child health family planning, childhood lead poisoning prevention, injury and violence prevention, food safety and nutrition, and emergency preparedness and response.

**Justification:** Adding environmental health to reflect the activities that protect the public's health. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Health)**

9. Support measures which establish, enhance, or fund policies, programs, research, standards, educational curriculum, and public awareness campaigns that encourage health promotion, health protection, disease and infection control, and injury and violence prevention efforts, including suicide prevention, behavior health awareness, ~~and~~ anti-bullying and ~~sexual exploitation of minors~~ [human trafficking prevention and intervention](#).

**Justification:** Recommended revision of policy to broaden the term "sexual exploitation of minors to "human trafficking" which includes, but is not limited to, child sex trafficking, child labor trafficking, sex trafficking, and involuntary domestic forced labor. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Health)**

18. Support proposals that would prevent youth access to tobacco products by: 1) protecting anti-preemption language specified in the Cigarette and Tobacco Licensing Act of 2003 that explicitly allows local jurisdictions to pass tobacco retail licensing laws; ~~and~~ 2) limiting the promotion and availability of traditional tobacco products, menthol and other flavored tobacco products, and electronic nicotine delivery systems (all e-devices and e-cigarettes); [3\) prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products and flavored electronic nicotine delivery systems including but not limited to menthol; and 4\) prohibiting the sale of all vaping products until U.S. public health officials determine the safety of vaping products and the cause\(s\) of the recent vaping-related injuries and deaths.](#)

**Justification:** Motion (Solis and Kuehl) approved by the Board on October 1, 2019. These changes are also consistent with an ordinance approved by the Board on September 24, 2019, establishing business licensing requirements and fees for tobacco shops and updating the Tobacco Retail License requirements, including prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Health)**

- [44. Support proposals that would protect medically-fragile individuals and vulnerable communities from harm caused by power outages or other emergencies.](#)

**Justification:** Planned and unplanned power outages compromise the health of thousands of County residents reliant on electricity for in-home medical equipment. Even short-term power outages can adversely affect public health; more often than not, the elderly, the sick, and the poor are most negatively impacted. For residents who are dependent on electricity for in-home medical equipment, an outage can be potentially fatal. As outages become more commonplace, this policy will allow the County to support proposals to protect those who are depending on electricity

for in-home care. This policy statement would support the OurCounty Regional Sustainability Plan goals number 1,2,4 and 7 efforts and Departments charged with meeting the goals. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Health; concurred by the Office of Emergency Management)**

#### **4.7 Alcohol and Drug**

5. Oppose measures that reduce the availability and accessibility of alcohol and drug prevention, *harm reduction*, treatment, and recovery services for ~~persons with alcohol and drug problems~~ *individuals engaging in substance use*.

**Justification:** To reduce stigma around substance use and substance use disorders (SUD), this proposal will replace “persons with alcohol and drug problems” with “individuals engaging in substance use.” Additionally, this proposal broadens protections against efforts to reduce funding for harm reduction programs including syringe service programs (SSP). Harm reduction programs are important community-based prevention services, but funding is often limited. According to the CDC, in addition to helping reduce Hepatitis C and HIV infections, “new users of SSPs are five times more likely to enter drug treatment and about three times more likely to stop using drugs than those who don’t use the programs.” **(Recommended by the Department of Public Health; concurred by Probation Department and the Alternative Public Defender)**

6. Support proposals that provide funding to increase the availability of education programs to prevent Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, a spectrum of irreversible birth defects, caused when a woman ~~drinks~~ *consumes* alcohol during pregnancy; *and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), a withdrawal syndrome that can occur in newborns exposed to certain substances, including opioids, during pregnancy.*

**Justification:** Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome is most often caused when a woman uses opioids during pregnancy. In Los Angeles County, over 4,000 infants were diagnosed with NAS between 2005 to 2016. This proposal will highlight NAS as another SUD-related public health issue that needs additional funding and attention. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Health)**

18. *Oppose proposals that seek to extend the sale of alcohol and alcohol products beyond current law.*

**Justification:** Alcohol is the second leading cause of premature death and disability in Los Angeles County with over one thousand annual alcohol-related deaths and is associated with over 54 acute and chronic health conditions. There is an estimated \$10.3 billion in annual alcohol-related costs, including nearly \$1.0 billion dollars in healthcare costs alone. Other costs include loss of productivity, criminal justice costs, vehicle accidents, property damages, and injuries. From 2006-2013, the County saw an 82 percent increase in alcohol-related emergency room visits. In an analysis of alcohol sale hour limits, the Task Force on Community Preventive Services (TFPS) indicated that “studies that examined increasing hours of sale by two or more hours found increases in vehicle crash injuries, emergency room admissions, and alcohol-related assault and injury.” The TFPS recommends maintaining the existing limits on alcohol sale hours as an important strategy for preventing alcohol-related harm. Recently, both SB 905 (2018) and SB 58 (2019) have attempted to extend alcohol sales to 4:00 AM from 2:00 AM. SB 905 passed the Legislature but was vetoed by then Governor Brown, and SB 58 was made a two-year bill. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Health)**

20. Support proposals that delegate Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) certification responsibilities from the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to counties.

**Justification:** DMC certification of clinics and facilities is required to provide DMC-reimbursable services. Currently, DHCS is the responsible entity for DMC certification. However, given the challenges with prolonged DMC certification processing times (at times greater than one year), delegating this responsibility to counties would positively impact network adequacy and patient access. This policy will allow the County to support proposals that provide counties with more direct responsibility over managing the DMC network that it is charged with overseeing; particularly as counties are held to federal network adequacy requirements that are impacted by prolonged DMC certification processing times. There is precedence of taking this approach in specialty mental health systems where certifications are delegated to the county-level for similar reasons. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Health)**

21. Support proposals that strengthen and provide funding for improved monitoring and enforcement of anti-patient brokering laws to protect substance use disorder (SUD) patients.

**Justification:** Patient brokering is an illegal practice by which a SUD treatment agency gives or receives remuneration or anything of value for the referral of a person who is seeking SUD treatment services; it is a threat to the safety of patients and the credibility of the SUD treatment system. There have been recent State and Federal laws enacted to prohibit patient brokering; however, there remains to be lack of clarity around enforcement and other types of kickbacks, including free or reduced rent housing and travel costs. Patient brokering impacts the integrity of SUD treatment and undermines efforts to integrate, legitimize, and modernize the SUD treatment system, and increased protections from this practice would reduce the County's liability and improve the integrity of our contract services. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Health)**

22. Support proposals that provide funding to enhance emergency departments (ED) discharge planning referrals and resources for individuals with complex needs (i.e. substance use disorders [SUD], mental health, and homelessness), including case management, navigation services, and health provider education.

**Justification:** EDs are opportunities to connect patients with complex needs with physical and behavioral (SUD and mental health) health treatment and other resources necessary to support their stability. Funding to expand case management, navigation services, and health provider education in emergency and trauma settings will help enhance discharge planning and strengthen the referral process, bridge gaps in care, and reduce financial strain on emergency and trauma care systems. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Health; concurred by the Department of Health Services)**

#### **4.8 Health Education and Training**

- ~~3. Support proposals which would facilitate the recruitment of experienced pharmacists to work in California, including replacement of the existing State pharmacist licensing examination with the North American Pharmacist licensure examination and a California law examination.~~

**Justification:** According to the Department of Health Services this has been implemented; therefore, this policy is no longer needed. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations; concurred by the Department of Health Services)**

10. Support proposals that provide funding for the education and training of primary and specialty care physicians and epidemiologists.

**Justification:** This policy was revised in 2018 to strike epidemiologists and add primary and specialty care physicians. As most epidemiologists are not physicians, this change would allow the County to support proposals related to the education and training of epidemiologists in addition to physicians. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations)**

11. Support proposals that establish funding for workforce development and infrastructure for mental health care and substance abuse providers.

**Justification:** This policy was previously listed under Section 4.10 Implementation of Health Care Reform. Since workforce development and infrastructure for mental health care and substance abuse providers is needed more generally than just within the implementation of Federal health care reform, it is recommended that this policy be moved to Section 4.8 Health Education and Training. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Health)**

#### **4.10 Implementation of Health Care Reform**

- ~~3. Support proposals that establish funding for workforce development and infrastructure for mental health care and substance abuse providers under Federal health care reform.~~

**Justification:** Recommend this policy be moved to Section 4.8 Health Education and Training and strike “under Federal health care reform” since as workforce development and infrastructure for mental health care and substance abuse providers is needed in general and not specific to Federal health care reform. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Health)**

8. Support proposals that simplify and coordinate the health care enrollment and renewal process with existing programs such as CalFresh; and continue the use of county human services agencies to administer initial and ongoing Medi-Cal eligibility, including the California ~~Automated Consortium Eligibility System (CalACES)~~ Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS), which interfaces with the Health Care Exchange.

**Justification:** Los Angeles County and all other counties are moving towards the use of a single statewide system. CalACES is being replaced by CalSAWS effective January 2023. **(Recommended by Department of Public Social Services)**

12. Support legislation to implement ~~the~~ *a new five-year Federal 1115 Medicaid waiver, ~~Medi-Cal 2020~~ and/or other State proposals that may replace or enhance components of prior Section 1115 waivers with other revenue programs.*

**Justification:** The Section 1115 Medicaid waiver, “Medi-Cal 2020,” began on December 30, 2015 and expires December 31, 2020. The State is in the process of developing its proposal for the subsequent waiver effective January 1, 2021, and is expected to propose moving some current Section 1115 waiver programs to other Medicaid waiver and administrative authorities. This change will allow the County to advocate for legislation to implement the next Section 1115 Medicaid waiver and other programs that may replace components of the current Section 1115 waiver. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations; concurred by the Department of Health Services, Department of Public Health, and Department of Mental Health)**

#### **4.11 Health Care Delivery System**

2. Support proposals to allow nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and/or similar personnel, to work independently with patients, *including* as part of a physician-led multi-disciplinary team *when appropriate*, providing medical home/clinical care to patients.

**Justification:** This policy revision would enable the County to support proposals that would allow nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and similar personnel to work independently with patients. Allowing these professions to practice more independently, including in solo practices when appropriate, would help address provider shortages and improve access to care for patients. **(Recommended by Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations; concurred by Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, and Public Health)**

#### **6. *Support policies that reduce drug costs and improve transparency of pharmacy benefit managers.***

**Justification:** According to the DHS, pharmaceutical costs have increased by nearly 35 percent, and DHS spends over \$230.0 million annually on prescription drugs. Pharmacy benefit managers often are the main beneficiaries of increased costs, and recent legislation (Chapter 905, Statutes of 2018) required pharmacy benefit managers to register with the State and established a State Task Force on Pharmacy Benefit Management Reporting to determine which data the related pharmaceutical costs the State should collect to increase oversight and accountability. According to DHS, further drug negotiation and benefit manager regulation would result in savings to insurers and providers, including DHS, that can then be better utilized by public health systems for patient services and care. **(Recommended by the Department of Health Services)**

#### **4.12 Integrated Data Sharing**

1. Support proposals that create or expand integrated information sharing systems for health, mental health, homelessness and housing, ~~and~~ human services programs and social service programs for the purposes of assessment and linking individuals and families to services, and which ensure the legal rights and privacy of the individual or families receiving services.

**Justification:** Addition of this policy would allow the County to support proposals that would allow local governments, continuums of care, and local service providers to communicate otherwise confidential information about individuals and families in need of health, mental health, human services and social services programs, which is crucial in identifying, assessing, and linking individuals and families to the services they need. The addition of this new policy is also consistent with the County's sponsorship of State legislation (AB 728, Chapter 337, Statutes of 2019), which allows adult and family multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) involving staff from multiple County Departments, local contracted agencies and non-profit service providers (created by County-sponsored AB 210, Chapter 544, Statutes of 2017) to communicate otherwise confidential information about individuals who are at-risk of homelessness in order to identify, assess, and link such individuals to housing and supportive services. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations; concurred by the Homeless Initiative)**

#### **5. HOUSING, ECONOMIC, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

4. Support proposals to provide additional resources for meeting the capital and operational costs of housing production and related supportive service needs of low- and moderate-income families and ~~the needs~~ of special populations, including homeless, elderly, disabled and mentally ill persons.

**Justification:** The proposed revision would allow the County to support proposals that provided funding for housing and supportive services for homeless individuals and families. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office)**

#### ~~5. — Support measures that end predatory lending practices.~~

**Justification:** Section 3.4 Consumer Protection includes policies that support measures to end predatory lending practices, including proposals to support proposals that increase protections for consumers against fraud, scams, and unfair or deceptive business practices (3.4.16) and proposals to expand, improve, and/or clarify the regulation of high-cost lending, including online lending 3.4.31). Therefore, this policy is not needed in the Housing, Economic, and Community Development section.

#### ~~10. — Support legislation to enhance workforce development for high tech industries.~~

**Justification:** Proposed relocation to 10.3 Workforce Development section. The Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) suggests this policy language be included under the workforce development section of the County State Legislative Agenda. **(Recommended by the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services with concurrence from the Los Angeles County Development Authority)**

30. Support proposals that would help curb unjust evictions by prohibiting landlords from evicting tenants without just cause and/or written notice.

**Justification:** Motion (Kuehl and Ridley-Thomas) approved by the Board on May 14, 2019.

31. Support proposals that would protect tenants from large unforeseen rent increases by placing an upper limit on annual rent increases and limiting rent increases to once per year.

**Justification:** Motion (Kuehl and Ridley-Thomas) approved by the Board on May 14, 2019.

32. Support proposals that would allow local governments to use local property tax revenues to incur debt or issue bonds to fund State-approved affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure projects.

**Justification:** Motion (Ridley-Thomas) approved by the Board on August 6, 2019.

33. Support legislation to authorize the Los Angeles County Development Authority to expand its housing advisory committee to eleven members, thereby allowing each of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to appoint a non-tenant member.

**Justification:** The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) reports that Federal law requires that, in lieu of having tenant members on the LACDA Board of Commissioners, Los Angeles County's housing advisory body must include at least six members who are residents of public housing or participants in HUD's Section 8 Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program (collectively known as tenant members). However, State law only permits nine members to sit on the advisory body, leaving only three seats for non-tenant members. Authorizing the County of Los Angeles to expand its housing advisory board from nine to eleven members would allow each Supervisorial District to appoint one non-tenant member.

## **6. JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **6.1 General**

~~10. Support legislation to clarify the authority of law enforcement agencies to request information from a service provider on the location of a phone, cell phone, pager or other telecommunication device proximate to the commission of a crime affecting the life, health, or safety of a victim.~~

**Justification:** The Office of the Public Defender (PD) notes that existing case law requires law enforcement to seek a warrant in order to obtain cell tower information (see *Carpenter v. U.S.* (2018) 138 S.Ct. 2206) and requires law enforcement to seek a warrant to search a cell phone (See *Riley v. U.S.* (2014) 134 S.Ct. 2473). **(Recommended by the Office of the Public Defender; concurred by the Alternate Public Defender)**

- ~~19. Support proposals to create a pretrial release system that mitigates racial and economic disparities while maintaining public safety; and that provides counties with adequate funding for additional costs for all impacted departments and appropriate local control and flexibility.~~

**Justification:** Relocated to new section 6.2 Pretrial, Recidivism Reduction, and Diversion Programs. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations)**

18. Support or pursue proposals that would expand eligibility of State-funded victim resources to family members of victims of fatal use of force by law enforcement and in-custody deaths.

**Justification:** Motion (Ridley-Thomas and Kuehl) approved by the Board on July 9, 2019.

19. Support proposals that would require the State fully fund the defense of death penalty cases pursuant to current law.

**Justification:** The Office of the Public Defender (PD) reports that in 1977, new statutes were enacted related to providing indigent individuals facing the death penalty with court-funded defense; and funding was appropriated as part of the legislation to reimburse counties for ancillary costs incurred in defense. The PD notes that this legislation effectively promised counties that the State would fund the significantly greater costs associated with defending someone against the death penalty. From 1977 to 1990, the State appropriated funding for this purpose in each annual budget. However, since 1990 no appropriations have been made, forcing counties to fund these prosecutions which have increased in number and in cost. Defending someone facing the death penalty is expensive and requires significant resources. The PD notes that their office is in support of abolishing the death penalty, but until such time, the State should at a minimum fully fund the defense of these cases. **(Recommended by the Office of the Public Defender; concurred by Alternate Public Defender)**

20. Support proposals designed to prevent the discriminatory use of the death penalty in California.

**Justification:** The Office of the Public Defender (PD) reports that people of color are overrepresented on death rows across the country and California. PD notes that studies have shown that it is much more likely that someone will be sentenced to death if that person kills a white person than if that person kills a person of color. According to recent reports, all 22 people sentenced to death in Los Angeles County in the recent years were non-white. PD recommends that if the death penalty is not abolished, the County support efforts to prevent the discriminatory use of the death penalty in California. **(Recommended by the Office of the Public Defender; concurred by Alternate Public Defender)**

21. Support cost-neutral proposals that increase transparency and prioritize the timely release of public information to all criminal justice partners.

**Justification:** The Office of the Public Defender (PD) indicates that members of the community are much more willing to trust their government if government is transparent and if they have reasonable access to public information. As such, PD notes that it is necessary for both prosecutors and defense attorneys to secure information relating to peace officer uses of force and findings of misconduct relating to force, sexual assaults and dishonesty as recently deemed public

information by SB 1421 (Chapter 988, Statutes of 2018), in order to ensure persons charged with crimes are not wrongfully convicted without being afforded due process.

SB 1421 permits inspection of specified peace and custodial officer records pursuant to the California Public Records Act (CPRA), including records related to incidents involving the: 1) discharge of a firearm by an officer; 2) strikes of impact weapons to the head or neck area; 3) deadly force or serious bodily injury by an officer; 4) sustained sexual assault by an officer; or 5) sustained findings of dishonesty by a peace officer. PD reports that many law enforcement agencies, however, have been slow to respond to these CPRA requests. PD concludes that to increase transparency, facilitate the transfer of this public information to criminal justice attorneys as well as the public and avoid the duplicate filing of CPRA requests which are time-consuming and costly, legislation that increases transparency and prioritizes the release of public information to all criminal justice partners should be supported. **(Recommended by the Office of the Public Defender; concurred by Alternate Public Defender)**

22. *Support proposals that increase the integrity of criminal convictions by facilitating access to information in peace officer personnel records which involve moral turpitude.*

**Justification:** The Office of the Public Defender (PD) indicates that while SB 1421 (Chapter 988, Statutes of 2018), was a step in the right direction, California has the strictest laws in the country protecting the privacy rights of law enforcement officers. PD notes that unfortunately, these overly broad laws protect and yield the small minority of law enforcement officers who commit crimes against the public and/or violate internal policies involving moral turpitude.

The PD reports that the former Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal wrote, “There is an epidemic of Brady violations abroad in the land.” (*United States v. Olsen* (2013) 737 F.3d 625.) Brady disclosures relate to the prosecution’s obligation to disclose evidence or information that would prove the innocence of the defendant. PD notes that under privacy laws, such key evidence and information is sometimes withheld, a leading cause of wrongful convictions. PD reports that such circumstances have also cost Los Angeles County millions of dollars in litigation costs; and supporting legislation which facilitates access to Brady information will increase the reliability of criminal convictions and also reduce liability to the County for wrongful convictions. **(Recommended by the Office of the Public Defender; concurred by Alternate Public Defender)**

23. *Support proposals that would require cities that elect to pay for the criminal prosecution of violations of city and municipal ordinances to pay for constitutionally required indigent defense.*

**Justification:** The Office of the Public Defender (PD) reports that current law allows cities and municipalities to pass and enforce “criminal” violations for conduct not otherwise covered by the California Penal Code. In some cities, for example, a resident can be charged with a crime and sentenced to jail for offenses such as riding a skateboard on the sidewalk or playing soccer in a park. PD notes that some cities elect to pay for their own prosecutors to file and prosecute these charges. However, cities are not currently required to pay for constitutionally mandated defense counsel for those charged with these offenses. As a result, while the County must pay the defense costs associated with city-initiated prosecutions, cities continue to enforce minor violations of law against a largely indigent population, without being forced to bear the cost of doing so. **(Recommended by the Office of the Public Defender; concurred by Alternate Public Defender)**

24. Support proposals to provide State funding for Public Defender services for non-criminal/civil matters as authorized under current law.

**Justification:** The Office of the Public Defender (PD) reports that Government Code section 27706 calls for the Public Defender to assist indigent persons with non-criminal matters under certain circumstances. An indigent person who is facing deportation, or wrongful eviction, for example, may qualify for public defender assistance. However, while the Government Code creates this obligation, it does not provide any funding to accomplish its goals. PD indicates that legislation or State Budget proposals dedicating State funding for public defender representation to indigent defendants as mandated by State law would allow the Public Defender to provide holistic representation, and to ensure better outcomes for indigent Angelenos. **(Recommended by the Office of the Public Defender; concurred by Alternate Public Defender.)**

25. Support proposals to provide funding to support the self-help legal access centers.

**Justification:** The Self-Help Legal Access Centers (SHLAC) program assists nearly 130,000 unrepresented litigants throughout Los Angeles County every year. SHLACs provide essential resources to achieve better outcomes for litigants and enable the courts to operate more efficiently. Existing law requires courts to include funds necessary for operation of self-help centers in its annual budget. The addition of this policy would allow the County to support increased State funding for the program. **(Recommended by the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs)**

6.2 Pretrial, Recidivism Reduction, and Diversion Programs

**Justification:** New section, including existing and proposed new policies. This addition will re-number all subsequent sections **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations)**

1. Support proposals to implement long-term recidivism reduction programs and strategies to address overcrowding in the State prison and county jail systems that do not place additional burden on local government or jeopardize public safety.
2. Support and/or sponsor legislation that eliminates or extends the time period for individuals to file a petition for resentencing of specified felonies to misdemeanors pursuant to Proposition 47 of 2014.
3. Support proposals that would maximize the State savings and funding that would be allocated for Proposition 47 of 2014 grant programs.
4. Support proposals that would distribute funding for Proposition 47 of 2014 grant programs to local agencies based proportionately on the United States Census Bureau Data on poverty thresholds, rates of unemployment and homelessness, populations of probationers, parolees and juvenile offenders, and rates of violent and non-violent crimes.
5. Support proposals that would fund and/or support programs to track the recidivism rates of justice-involved individuals at the county level.
6. Support proposals that would fund and/or support the County's justice system, including assisting the County with correctional treatment facility infrastructure needs and expanding diversion and treatment programs.

7. Support proposals that would fund and/or support establishing collaborative criminal justice rehabilitation and treatment programs between the State and local justice systems.

8. Support proposals that authorize new and/or expand existing pre-filing and post-filing diversion programs while maintaining public safety.

**Justification:** Existing policies, moved from the previous “6.5 Population Management, Recidivism Reduction, and Diversion Programs” section.

9. Support proposals to create a pretrial release system that mitigates racial and economic disparities while maintaining public safety; and that provides counties with adequate funding for additional costs for all impacted departments and appropriate local control and flexibility.

**Justification:** Relocated from “6.1 General” section. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations)**

10. Support State funding for the implementation of mental health diversion pursuant to AB 1810 of 2018, county bail reform efforts, and expansion of various pre-plea diversion programs.

**Justification:** Motion (Solis and Kuehl) approved by the Board on February 5, 2019.

11. Support State proposals to create, fund, and the further development of alternatives to incarceration.

**Justification:** Motion (Solis and Kuehl) approved by the Board on February 12, 2019. Additional refinements by the Office of the Public Defender (PD), which reports that sending people to jail or prison is costly, and often increases the likelihood that that individual will reoffend. PD notes that a defendant who is rehabilitated in the community, on the other hand, costs substantially less and is less likely to reoffend. Therefore, where consistent with public safety, it is in the interest of the community to adopt measures designed to reduce the rate of incarceration.

12. Support legislation which would give California voters the opportunity to restore voting rights to those on parole upon completion of a State or Federal prison term.

**Justification:** Motion (Ridley-Thomas and Kuehl) approved by the Board on August 13, 2019.

13. Support proposals that would authorize counties and their local court to establish a pretrial diversion program for custodial parents or legal guardians of minor children.

**Justification:** Motion (Kuehl and Solis) approved by the Board on June 11, 2019.

14. Support proposals, where consistent with public safety and the best anti-recidivism practices, to remove mandatory minimum sentencing requirements.

**Justification:** The Office of the Public Defender (PD) notes that current mandatory minimums remove sentencing discretion from the bench officer most familiar with a defendant's case. PD reports that as a practical result, this means that current mandatory sentencing minimums are only relevant in cases where the judge who has the most understanding of the defendant's case, personal circumstances, and the interests of the community believes that a different sentence is appropriate. PD indicates that because such individualized sentencing decisions produce better outcomes for both the community and the defendant, removal of mandatory minimum sentences, where consistent with public safety, is in the best interest of the community. **(Recommended by the Office of the Public Defender; concurred by Alternate Public Defender)**

15. Support proposals that fund mental health and substance use disorder treatment for undocumented residents to allow them to access treatment programs in lieu of incarceration.

**Justification:** The Office of the Public Defender (PD) reports that the same well-known reasons that commend public funding of mental health and substance use disorder treatment programs in lieu of incarceration for defendants who are United States citizens apply to non-citizens. Yet, PD notes that despite being similarly situated, non-citizens are sometimes denied mental health and/or substance use disorder treatment because funding is mostly available to citizens. This disparity inequitably harms not only the individual defendant (including lawful permanent residents), but also families and communities as treatment leads to safer outcomes than incarceration. Finally, PD notes that in the face of threats to healthcare access for non-citizens, including lawful residents, funding for mental health and substance use disorder treatment in place of incarceration is critical to decrease stigma and ensure equitable access to care. **(Recommended by the Office of the Public Defender; concurred by Alternate Public Defender, Department of Public Health, and Department of Mental Health)**

16. Support proposals that fund mental health and substance use disorder treatment programs that would serve as means of diverting mentally ill defendants out of the criminal justice system and into treatment, where consistent with public safety.

**Justification:** The Office of the Public Defender (PD) reports that roughly one in four defendants in County jail and in State prison suffer from a mental illness. PD notes that the County jail has become, de facto, the largest holding center for mentally ill people in the United States. Additionally, a significant portion of incarcerated individuals with a mental illness have a co-occurring substance use disorder. Lawsuits resulting from the mistreatment or death of these inmates are both expensive and common. Moreover, PD indicates that incarcerating individuals with a mental illness and/or substance use disorder does little to prevent recidivism, is expensive, and is statistically correlated with a higher likelihood that the mental-illness sufferer will decompensate. Finally, PD notes that meaningful change will require State and local support for the development of more community-based mental health and substance use disorder treatment facilities. **(Recommended by the Office of the Public Defender; concurred by Alternate Public Defender, Department of Public Health, and Department of Mental Health)**

17. Support proposals that eliminates past gang membership as a disqualifier for court treatment programs.

**Justification:** The Office of the Public Defender (PD) reports that current practice in Los Angeles County is to deny past or present gang members access to treatment in our Community Collaborative Courts. PD indicates that while it is certainly possible that some former gang members might be inappropriate for a given treatment program, refusing treatment to all former

gang members makes little sense, since denial of treatment only makes it more likely they will reoffend, to the detriment of themselves and our shared community. PD recommends County support for legislation that clarifies that past gang membership is not an immediate disqualifier for court treatment programs. **(Recommended by the Office of the Public Defender; concurred by Alternate Public Defender)**

18. Support proposals that promote and provide funding for arts-based programming and services for justice-involved individuals and communities at risk of becoming justice-involved.

**Justification:** In December 2018, the Board approved a motion authored by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas to promote the field of public safety/justice and the arts. The forthcoming report back will include recommendations related to these policy areas. The addition of the proposed items will allow the County to support proposals which promote arts-based strategies to provide programming and services for justice-involved individuals. **(Recommended by the Department of Arts and Culture; concurred by the Office of Diversion and Re-entry)**

#### **6.4 Juvenile Justice**

18 Support proposals that provide funding or support for programs, services and facilities for arts instruction for youth in all active County youth detention facilities and juvenile day reporting centers as part of a comprehensive, multi-agency juvenile justice plan.

**Justification:** In December 2018, the Board approved a motion authored by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas to promote the field of public safety/justice and the arts. The forthcoming report back will include recommendations related to these policy areas. The addition of the proposed items will allow the County to support proposals which promote arts-based strategies to provide programming and services for justice-involved individuals. **(Recommended by the Department of Arts and Culture; concurred by the Office of Diversion and Re-entry)**

#### **6.5 Population Management, Recidivism Reduction, and Diversion Program****6.6 Inmate Facilities and Programs**

**Justification:** Renamed section. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations)**

~~10. Oppose proposals for the early release of prison inmates to address overcrowding in the State prison system.~~

**Justification:** The Office of the Public Defender (PD) indicates that the State is currently making great efforts to comply with federal court orders to reduce prison-overcrowding while at the same time releasing only those who can safely be released. This agenda item should be eliminated. **(Recommended by the Office of the Public Defender; concurred by Alternate Public Defender)**

11. Support proposals to house prison and/or jail inmates in alternative custody facilities including ~~in-State and out-of-State~~, public, ~~and~~ private, and community-based facilities that are better suited to treating justice-involved individuals with mental health, substance use disorder, gender/sexual orientation and/or other critical needs ~~to address overcrowding in the State prison and county jail system and avoid early release.~~

**Justification:** The Office of the Public Defender (PD) indicates that the State is currently making great efforts to comply with federal court orders to reduce prison-overcrowding while at the same time releasing only those who can safely be released. However, Probation notes that it is important to keep this policy, as amended, as in the future the County may one day want to place inmates into public and/or private community-based programs that are better designed to address mental health, substance use disorder, gender and other issues better than the jails. **(Recommended by the Office of the Public Defender; concurred by Alternate Public Defender and Probation Department)**

- ~~12. Support proposals to implement long-term recidivism reduction programs and strategies to address overcrowding in the State prison and county jail systems that do not place additional burden on local government or jeopardize public safety.~~
- ~~13. Support and/or sponsor legislation that eliminates or extends the time period for individuals to file a petition for resentencing of specified felonies to misdemeanors pursuant to Proposition 47 of 2014.~~
- ~~14. Support proposals that would maximize the State savings and funding that would be allocated for Proposition 47 of 2014 grant programs.~~
- ~~15. Support proposals that would distribute funding for Proposition 47 of 2014 grant programs to local agencies based proportionately on the United States Census Bureau Data on poverty thresholds, rates of unemployment and homelessness, populations of probationers, parolees and juvenile offenders, and rates of violent and non-violent crimes.~~
- ~~16. Support proposals that would fund and/or support programs to track the recidivism rates of justice-involved individuals at the county level.~~
- ~~17. Support proposals that would fund and/or support the County's justice system, including assisting the County with correctional treatment facility infrastructure needs and expanding diversion and treatment programs.~~
- ~~18. Support proposals that would fund and/or support establishing collaborative criminal justice rehabilitation and treatment programs between the State and local justice systems.~~
- ~~19. Support proposals that authorize new and/or expand existing pre-filing and post-filing diversion programs while maintaining public safety.~~

**Justification:** Policies relocated to new section, "6.2 Pretrial, Recidivism Reduction, and Diversion Programs." **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations)**

## **6.6 Sex Offenders and ~~Sex~~ Human Trafficking**

**Justification:** Section name updated to reflect recommended revision of policies below to more accurately reflect the types of “human trafficking” which includes, but is not limited to, child sex trafficking, child labor trafficking, and involuntary domestic forced labor.

6. Support proposals that develop or enhance programs and services, and increase protections for victims of commercial sexual exploitation, [labor exploitation, and human trafficking](#).
7. Support proposals that provide funding for training related to the identification, intervention and prevention of [labor and sex trafficking, including](#) the commercial sexual exploitation of children.
8. Support proposals that provide increased State funding for counties to help serve [survivors of human trafficking, including](#) commercially sexually exploited children.
9. Support proposals that enhance the County's ability to safely house and protect survivors [of human trafficking, including](#) commercially sexually exploited children.

**Justification:** Recommended revisions of existing policies to more accurately reflect the types of human trafficking which includes, but is not limited to, child sex trafficking, child labor trafficking, and involuntary domestic forced labor. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Health)**

## **6.8 Fire**

- [18. Support proposals to improve the prevention of wildfires, including, but not limited to, the hardening of homes and expansion and the enforcement of defensible space programs.](#)

**Justification:** The Fire Department reports that homes in “wildland urban interface areas” are at great risk of damage from wildfires. The Fire Department supports proposals that would improve fire prevention, including the hardening of homes and improving defensible space around homes, which is critical to structure survivability and slowing the spread of wildfires. By improving defensible space and home hardening, it also improves the safety of firefighters defending properties. In high fire hazard areas, the Fire Code dictates defensible space and maintenance requirements, which is 200 feet of space between structures and brush. **(Recommended by the Fire Department)**

- [19. Support proposals that improve workforce safety and protections for fire personnel exposed to harmful or hazardous conditions.](#)

**Justification:** Motion (Barger and Kuehl) approved by the Board on June 18, 2019.

20. *Support proposals to support the mental health of first responders and other public safety personnel, including proposals that improve training, standards, and resources for mental health services.*

**Justification:** In the course of their duties, firefighters are exposed to traumatic incidents and dynamic, high-stress working environments that can have an overwhelming impact on their mental, emotional, and physical health. Such events may increase the risk for post-traumatic stress and other stress-induced injuries. The Fire Department has invested in improving the care for personnel through the Behavioral Health Program's peer teams which respond to issues ranging from depression and anxiety to post-traumatic stress. In 2019, legislation was introduced that would establish statewide training and standards for peer support and create a network of peer team members available to our members throughout the state. A statewide network would be particularly helpful for incidents and events that involve a multi-jurisdictional response. **(Recommended by the Fire Department)**

### **6.13 Disaster Preparedness**

4. Support proposals to fund the development of a coordinated public information program to communicate health risks and disseminate health information in preparation for and in response to emergencies, acts of terrorism, climate disasters, and other catastrophic events.

**Justification:** The proposed change is consistent with DPH's Five Point Plan to Address the Health Impacts of Climate Change, adopted in 2014. One of the strategies in the plan is to "Inform and engage the general public about the nature of climate change and the health co-benefits associated with taking action to reduce carbon emissions." This change is also aligned with the County's Sustainability Plan's stated action to "Disseminate community-specific, climate-related health messaging to healthcare and community partners." Currently there is minimal funding for this type of public information program to communicate health risks and information related to climate disasters, and this change would allow the County to specifically support proposals that preserve or increase funding for programs to communicate health information around climate disasters. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Health)**

### **6.14 Traffic Administration Services Program**

4. Support proposals to develop, recommend, and implement regulations and routine monitoring of community service referral agencies to ensure that Court-ordered community service is administered and verified by designated referral agencies in accordance to standards agreeable by the Superior Court of California.

**Justification:** On August 1, 2017, the Board of Supervisors approved the County's implementation of a Court-Referred Community Service (CRCS) Monitoring Program. Currently there are no state, federal, or local rules or regulations governing the community service referral agencies utilized by the Superior Court of California (Court), and no agency currently monitors them. Further, the State has determined that regulation and monitoring of community service programs is a function of the County, and not the Court. While there are several reputable and legitimate community service providers, the Court is aware that there are some community service referral organizations or individuals that commit fraudulent community service referral operations. Additionally, the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) is aware that there are several community service referral agency associations whose members may oppose uniform rules or program monitoring conducted by the LACDA or any other agency outside of

their associations. This policy would allow the County to support legislation to develop, recommend, and implement regulations and routine monitoring of CRCS Programs. **(Recommended by the Los Angeles County Development Authority)**

## **85. MENTAL HEALTH**

**Justification:** Recommend moving Mental Health from Section 8 to Section 5 so that it follows the Health section to better connect the related policies in the Legislative agenda. This would also re-number all subsequent sections. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations)**

7. Support ~~legislation~~ proposals to fund mental health services to CalWORKS recipients, multi-agency training and coordination for suicide prevention, emergency services for disaster relief response, and recruitment, training and retention of mental health professionals including certified peer support specialists ~~counselors~~.

**Justification:** This change is consistent with the current terminology, including in County Co-Sponsored SB 10 (Beall), which would establish peer support specialist certification. **(Recommended by the Department of Mental Health)**

15. Support proposals to provide permanent and adequate funding of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) including through but not limited to the 2011 Public Safety Realignment allocation formula.

**Justification:** Recent legislation has sought to increase funding for EPSDT services through other funding sources, including Medi-Cal. **(Recommended by the Department of Mental Health)**

33. Support proposals that would shift California's public behavioral health system to one based on population outcomes and that increase programming and funding for services that address the social determinants, equity, and prevention.

**Justification:** The Department of Mental Health aims to build a statewide behavioral health system that works with other departments to respond to social determinants of health. The current statewide behavioral health system is confined to a compliance model that is aligned to strict federal and state definitions of medical necessity, which restricts reimbursement and delivery of services prior to the point which individuals demonstrate need. **(Recommended by the Department of Mental Health; concurred by the Department of Public Health)**

## **9. REVENUE AND TAXATION**

31. Oppose proposals that negatively affect revenue or the efficient administration of the property tax system.

**Justification:** Adding this policy would be helpful to the kinds of efforts the Assessor usually undertake. An example of a recent measure that could have posed practical administrative difficulties including additional cost and resources for counties is SB 364 (Stone) which as amended on June 18, 2019, would have eliminated the annual maximum two percent inflation

adjustment applied to the assessed value of a home owned by a veteran who is age 65 or older and whose income does not exceed \$50,000 if single, or \$100,000 married. This bill, which did not advance out of the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee, would have created substantial work for assessors, including the collection and maintenance of new types of records, and created an entirely new type of exemption, but was estimated to save veterans an average of only \$82.00 a year. **(Recommended by the Assessor)**

32. [Support proposals to expand eligibility and increase funding for the California Earned Income Tax Credit.](#)

**Justification:** New policy. Motion (Kuehl and Solis) approved by the Board on May 21, 2019.

## **10. SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **10.1 Reforming the Safety Net and Promoting Self-Sufficiency**

13. Support adequate funding for data collection, verification, reporting, and fraud detection systems, while continuing investments in technology for the automation of public assistance programs, including the LEADER Replacement System (LRS), which is currently supporting the constituents of the County and shall be expanded to become the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS) to eventually support the automation need for ~~all 56 counties~~ all 58 counties.

**Justification:** The California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS) will eventually support the automation need for all 58 counties. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Social Services)**

25. [Support proposals to continue CalFresh eligibility with hold harmless provisions for the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment \(SSI/SSP\) population and ongoing funding for county administration and benefits.](#)

**Justification:** AB 1811 reverses the CalFresh eligibility policy known as “cash-out” for SSI/SSP recipients and creates the SSI/SSP Cash-In Supplemental Nutrition Benefit (SNB) Program and the SSI/SSP Cash-In Transition Nutrition Benefit (TNB) Program for current CalFresh households negatively affected by the policy change. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Social Services)**

26. [Oppose proposals that eliminate Modified Categorical Eligibility to the CalFresh program.](#)

**Justification:** The USDA has proposed a change to the eligibility rules in SNAP. Under this proposal, the Modified Categorical Eligibility would be eliminated affecting a large part of the population that receives CalFresh benefits. It would also limit the current flexibility to determine automatic eligibility for households receiving benefits from another means-tested program. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Social Services)**

## **10.2 CalWORKs**

- 8 Support efforts to fund and maintain ~~the Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS) and/or~~ an automated, non-biometric identity verification method for the CalWORKs and General Relief programs.

**Justification:** The State instructed the California Department of Social Services to repeal SFIS and implement and maintain an automated, non-biometric identity verification method in the CalWORKs program beginning FY 2018-19. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Social Services)**

- ~~16. Support proposals to require that non-exempt CalWORKs adults attend the Welfare-to-Work Appraisal appointment as a condition of initial adult eligibility for cash assistance.~~

**Justification:** This is a General Relief program policy and is not applicable to the CalWORKs program eligibility requirements. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Social Services)**

24. Support proposals to maintain or increase funding for the CalWORKs Home Visiting ~~Initiative~~ Program.

**Justification:** The Governor's FY 2019-20 budget renamed the initiative as the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program. This update would be consistent with that change. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Social Services)**

## **10.3 Workforce Development**

- ~~2. Support proposals to allow consultations between local officials during the modification of the Federal-mandated comprehensive four-year local plan, especially with respect to local performance measures.~~

**Justification:** The Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services recommends removing the existing policy statement. WDACS actively engages local officials and regional partners to discuss performance measures and other components when modifying the four-year local plan. The existing policy is not needed to promote such collaboration. **(Recommended by the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services)**

3. Support proposals that streamline economic and workforce development service delivery, improve data sharing, and establish ~~ment of~~ reasonable performance measures to demonstrate efficacy of County service delivery. ~~levels for all target populations (adult, dislocated workers and youth) that are reasonable and do not penalize local areas with high unemployment rates and disproportionate numbers of hard-to-employ persons, or which target employment and training services at the hard-to-employ.~~

**Justification:** The Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services recommends simplifying the existing policy and expanding it to enable the County to advocate for proposals that improve workforce programming and services, such as encouraging data sharing between State and Local Workforce Development Boards (WDBs). There are seven distinct

WDBs that serve clients in different areas within the County. Clients are often served by multiple different WDBs – yet, WDBs do not currently share data with each other. Proposals that further data sharing would allow the County WDBs to better analyze their workforce investments to determine effectiveness, which would lead to improved service delivery to the State's job seekers and businesses. **(Recommended by the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services)**

6. Support proposals that provide an allocation of resources to regions and/or among workforce development boards based on the number of workers with barriers to employment.

**Justification:** The Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services serves thousands of clients with barriers to employment through the administration of the America's Job Centers of California (AJCCs). Proposals aimed at distributing resources to counties across the state for workforce development and/or related services should heavily factor populations into their allocation decisions. Resources for the Los Angeles region are typically split at the State level among different boards within a workforce development region. Los Angeles County and Los Angeles City are the largest boards, serving over 75 percent of the population within Los Angeles County. As such, equitable allocation of funding based on areas with a disproportionately higher population with barriers to employment would benefit the County by providing additional resources for services and programs. **(Recommended by the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services)**

7. Support proposals that reduce barriers to employment and provide opportunities for unemployed or underemployed individuals.

**Justification:** The Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services provides services to clients with multiple barriers to employment, including justice-involved individuals, public assistance recipients, veterans, and homeless individuals. This policy addition is aimed at addressing the unique challenges that these populations experience. For instance, justice-involved individuals face a variety of barriers, including state licensing requirements that disqualify them from employment opportunities. Additionally, in California many employers are not in compliance with the Fair Chance Act (Assembly Bill 1008), effective January 1, 2018, which makes it illegal for employers to ask a job applicant about their criminal record before making a job offer. This policy provides flexibility to support proposals that would remove barriers for certain populations and weigh in on proposals that would improve enforcement and compliance of the Fair Chance Act **(Recommended by the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services; concurred by the Department of Human Resources)**

8. Support ~~legislation~~ proposals to enhance workforce development for high-growth ~~tech~~ industries.

**Justification:** Revision of existing policy and location. The Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services proposes changing the language to reflect the County's desire to align workforce development job training and services with high-growth industries. The broader terminology will allow the County to advocate for proposals that enhance workforce and economic development efforts across a wide variety of industries, rather than solely the tech industry. WDACS suggests this policy language be included under the workforce development section of the County State Legislative Agenda rather than Housing, Community and Economic Development. **(Recommended by the Department of Workforce Development,**

**Aging and Community Services; concurred by the Los Angeles County Development Authority)**

#### **10.4 Citizenship, Legalization Assistance, and Immigration Matters**

8. Sponsor or support proposals to strengthen consumer fraud protections for immigrants and their families seeking immigration services.

**Justification:** Motion (Solis) approved by the Board on January 22, 2019.

9. Support proposals that enhance access to services and resources for the immigrant community such as proposals that support communicating in different languages and cultural competency.

**Justification:** Los Angeles County is home to more immigrants than any other county in the nation. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, one-third of the County population was born in another country. A recent study by Asian Americans Advancing Justice, reported that nearly one in three people in the County experience difficulty communicating in English to the extent that it impacts their ability to access services. The addition of this policy would allow the County to support measures that would strengthen effective communication with the immigrant population. **(Recommended by the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs – Office of Immigrant Affairs).**

10. Support proposals for immigrants to obtain and maintain professional licenses, vocational training, higher education, and related resources to promote self-sufficiency and financial empowerment.

**Justification:** Senate Bill 1159 (Chapter 752, Statutes of 2014) prohibited licensing boards under the State Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) from denying licensure to an applicant based on citizenship or immigration status and required that an applicant provide either an individual tax identification number (ITIN) or a social security number for an initial or renewal license. The addition of this policy would allow the County to advocate in support of culturally and linguistically appropriate education and outreach to educate immigrants about available services as well as their eligibility and to receive professional licenses. **(Recommended by the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs – Office of Immigrant Affairs)**

#### **10.7 Senior and Adult Services**

1. Support proposals to increase funding for the Adult Protective Services (APS) Program to enable counties to ensure the safety and protection of abused and neglected elders and dependent adults, including proposals that provide funding for transportation services. ~~and to meet new State mandates to the programs and associated increases in APS client caseloads.~~

**Justification:** The Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services established the New Freedom Transportation Program with three sub-programs that address the transportation needs of the elderly and dependent adult populations through the APS Program; however, the programs are not sustainable without the support and ongoing funding from the County. Funding for two of the programs will be exhausted this year and the remaining final program funding is expected to end in September 2020. Since August 2017, the Department has

provided over 76,000 rides to seniors. WDACS continues to seek grant support and other resources to support transportation services. This policy addition would allow the County to support State proposals that provide financial resources to local jurisdictions to assist seniors with transportation needs. **(Recommended by the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services)**

17. Support ~~legislation~~ proposals that promote the safety and well-being of individuals with cognitive impairments, including the reunification of ~~will enhance the County's ability to reunite~~ families with loved ones who have tendencies to wander, such as individuals with Alzheimer's, dementia, and autism.

**Justification:** The Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services reports that the older adult population is set to double by the year 2030 and the increased number of individuals diagnosed with autism, wandering will become a greater issue for the County and the State of California to address. It is expected that 60 percent of individuals with Alzheimer's and 49 percent of children with autism will wander and go missing at some point in their lives. The Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services currently works with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in the LA Found Initiative (related to the Board-approved motion to establish the Bringing Our Loved Ones Home Task Force on February 28, 2017) consisting of the Project Lifesaver Pilot which provides a free tracking device to individuals who suffer from cognitive impairments and are prone to wandering. This revision of policy would allow the County to support proposals that would not only help reunify families with individuals who wander but would also promote the safety of individuals with cognitive impairments to prevent them from wandering. **(Recommended by the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services)**

19. Support proposals that improve the quality of life, such as livability needs, and delivery of services for older adults and people with disabilities.

**Justification:** Per a motion (Hahn) to support AB 1118 related to legislation that would direct the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to update guidelines for county general plans to include elements of the domains of livability for older adults and to support SB 228 related to the State establishing an Aging Task Force to develop a Master Plan on Aging, which was approved by the Board on May 21, 2019. **(Recommended by the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services)**

20. Support proposals that provide funding for arts-based programs and services for older adults.

**Justification:** According to the Department of Arts and Culture, this policy aligns with the Department's Purposeful Aging Program. This addition would allow the County to support proposals which would enhance the County's programs and services for older adults. **(Recommended by the Department of Arts and Culture; concurred by the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services).**

## **10.11 Homelessness**

1. Support proposals which would: 1) increase funding for homeless assistance programs, including supportive housing, supportive services, [employment services](#) and emergency services; 2) increase local flexibility over the use of homeless assistance funds; 3) simplify and reduce administrative requirements; 4) ~~enhance~~ allow data ~~and client-level information~~ sharing between local agencies that provide ~~homeless~~ services [to homeless individuals and families](#); and 5) ~~more equitably~~ distribute funds [equitably](#) based on relative need.

**Justification:** Employment services are a key component to fighting the homeless crisis in Los Angeles County. WDACS recommends the addition to provide clarity and/or to expand the types of services characterized as homeless assistance programs. The proposed revisions also strengthen the data-sharing provisions related to coordinating housing and support services to address or prevent homelessness. **(Recommended by Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services; concurred by the Homeless Initiative)**

2. Support proposals which provide ~~additional resources for funding to~~ meeting the housing and related supportive service needs of special populations, including [homeless](#), elderly, disabled, and [those with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder](#) ~~mentally ill persons~~.

**Justification:** The proposed changes will allow the County to support proposals for both new and additional funding as well as proposals that meet the specific need of those with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder. There is a need to build a permanent continuum of housing options for these specific populations and their unique needs. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations; concurred by the Homeless Initiative)**

3. Support ~~creation and funding of a State plan to end homelessness, and the reconvening of a State-level Interagency Council on Homelessness comprised of representatives from all State cabinet departments responsible for programs or activities that affect homeless persons and the agencies that serve them~~ [state efforts to develop policies and identify resources, benefits, and services to prevent and work towards ending homelessness in California](#).

**Justification:** The State Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council was created in 2017 to oversee the implementation of “Housing First” policies, guidelines, and regulations to reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness in California. The proposed changes would allow the County to support and coordinate with the Council. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations; concurred by the Homeless Initiative)**

4. Support proposals to improve the discharge policies and procedures of State prisons, hospitals and any other agencies with residential services to ensure that persons ~~are not homeless~~ [linked to housing resources](#) at the time of release.

**Justification:** **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations; concurred by the Homeless Initiative)**

6. Support ~~measures that would allocate additional~~ *proposals to provide* resources to create, ~~and~~ rehabilitate, *or subsidize* housing for low and extremely low-income populations who are vulnerable to homelessness.

**Justification:** The proposed changes would allow the County to support a wider variety of housing proposals. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations; concurred by the Homeless Initiative)**

7. Support ~~legislation~~ *proposals* that would authorize the *use or* sale of surplus or otherwise unneeded State property to ~~the County of Los Angeles~~ *local governments* or ~~the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority~~ *joint powers authorities* to provide housing for persons or families experiencing homelessness.

**Justification:** The proposed revisions to this existing policy are consistent with County-supported AB 761 (which will allow for National Guard armories to be used throughout the year for use as shelter for homeless persons from hazardous weather conditions) and would allow local governments to either use, lease or purchase surplus State property for use as shelter. AB 761 was signed into law on September 26, 2019. **(Recommended by the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations; concurred by the Homeless Initiative)**

8. *Support proposals that would provide funding for rental assistance and legal aid to assist individuals and families who are at risk of becoming homeless.*

**Justification:** Motion (Kuehl and Ridley-Thomas) approved by the Board on April 16, 2019.

9. *Support proposals to exempt interim housing projects that serve homeless families and individuals, such as conversions of motels into supportive or transitional housing, newly constructed supportive housing projects and newly constructed emergency shelters, from the California Environmental Quality Act.*

**Justification:** Motions approved by the Board on May 28, 2019 (Hahn) and July 23, 2019 (Ridley-Thomas and Barger).

## **11. TRANSPORTATION**

3. Support funding for pedestrian and bicycle-oriented ~~projects~~ *infrastructure* such as crosswalks, lighting, bicycle ~~lanes~~ *facilities*, and traffic controls that ~~safely~~ promote *safe* active transportation.

**Justification:** The proposed revision updates language to be more aligned with terminology currently used to describe transportation enhancements. Additionally, the proposed revision allows for support of funding for all types of bicycle facilities (paths, routes, etc.) not just lanes. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Works)**

12. Support legislation allowing the use of automated enforcement systems to enforce speed limits on ~~local streets and school zones~~ unincorporated Los Angeles County roadways.

**Justification:** The proposed revision updates language to remove any uncertainty introduced by the use of term "local streets". The proposed revision allows for support of automated enforcement systems on all unincorporated Los Angeles County roadways not just those classified as "local streets" on the County's Highway Master Plan. **(Recommended by the Department of Public Works; concurred by the Department of Public Health)**

### **13. CANNABIS**

15. Support proposals that address misleading cannabis advertising and unsubstantiated health benefit claims from cannabis companies, including but not limited to positive mental health impacts.

**Justification:** Regulations regarding the advertising of cannabis products are inconsistent and largely unregulated. Many cannabis companies claim health benefits from cannabis products that are unsubstantiated. While the State is attempting to curtail the advertising of illegal cannabis businesses, it has not yet addressed the issue of unsubstantiated claims of the medical benefits of cannabis. Claims about the medicinal efficacy of cannabis to treat epilepsy, arthritis, and even cancer have been advertised with little to no research to support those claims. Additionally, cannabis companies have advertised cannabis as a treatment for mental health disorders, which are also unsubstantiated. The addition of this policy would allow the County to support legislation at the State level to regulate cannabis advertising. **(Recommended by the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs; concurred by the Department of Public Health)**